

**NATIONAL INDIAN EDUCATION ASSOCIATION  
Testimony to the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs  
on the Fiscal Year 2000 Budget Request  
March 3, 1999**

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**STATEMENT OF THE NATIONAL INDIAN EDUCATION ASSOCIATION  
SUBMITTED TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON INDIAN AFFAIRS  
ON THE PRESIDENT'S FISCAL YEAR 2000 BUDGET  
March 3, 1999**

*"As President, I have worked very hard to honor tribal sovereignty and to strengthen our government-to-government relationships. Long ago, many of your ancestors gave up land, water, and mineral rights in exchange for peace, security, health care, education from the federal government. It is a solemn pact. And while the United States government did not live up to its side of the bargain in the past, we can and we must honor it today and into that new millennium." - President Clinton, before signing Executive Order 13096 on American Indian and Alaska Native Education, August 6, 1998*

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The National Indian Education Association (NIEA), the oldest national organization representing the education concerns of over 3,000 American Indian and Alaska Native educators, tribal leaders, school administrators, teachers, parents, and students is pleased to submit this statement on the President's FY2000 budget for the education of American Indian and Alaska Native children. NIEA has an elected board of 12 members who represent various Indian education programs and Indian Country constituencies from throughout the nation. Annually, NIEA holds a convention which provides our members with an opportunity to network, share information, and hear from Congressional leaders and staff, as well as from, federal government officials on policy and legislative initiatives impacting Indian education. The following presents a view of Indian education as it currently exists and how the FY2000 budget request could improve the state of education for American Indian and Alaska Native people.

**Executive Order No. 13096 on American Indian and Alaska Native Education**

When measured against the general population, American Indian students continue to rank at, or near, the bottom of every educational indicator. In light of the many challenges these students face, the Administration has made an impressive move to increase educational access for American Indian and Alaska Native people through issuance of Executive Order 13096 in August, 1998. The executive order outlines six broad challenges for increasing student achievement among American Indians and Alaska Natives and reducing the dropout rate. The six goals of the order include:

- Improving reading and mathematics;

- Increasing high school completion and postsecondary attendance rates;
- Reducing the influence of long-standing factors that impede educational performance, such as poverty and substance abuse;
- Creating strong, safe, and drug-free school environments;
- Improving science education; and
- Expanding the use of educational technology.

NIEA is encouraged by President Clinton's focus on Indian education through this order. NIEA will work cooperatively with the Administration, federal agencies and other national Indian organizations to ensure the order meets its objectives and that Indian Country is made aware of the progress of the order.

We commend President Clinton for a budget that emphasizes the importance of education for all citizens of this country, including the First Americans. Both political parties have indicated that education is their top priority and nowhere is the need greater than in American Indian and Alaska Native communities. There are certain programs within the Department of Education and Department of Interior, Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) which deserve consideration for increases. These programs will be covered in this document with justification provided. Alternative methods of federal education funding, as proposed by certain members of Congress, will also arise again this year. Block grant funding is one of these methods which needs to be considered very carefully by Congress. Funding for certain Indian education programs are the result of the Federal/Tribal Trust relationship and may not be conducive to this type of proposal.

### **Indian Education as a Budget Priority**

NIEA has identified several priority areas that need congressional support and funding in order to eliminate the barriers to Indian student achievement. These priorities include:

#### **1. Eliminating the backlog in school construction/repair in BIA Schools**

NIEA is greatly concerned over the health and well-being of over 50,000 Indian students who attend classes and/or live in inadequate educational facilities. Funding for BIA and Department of Defense (DOD) schools are the sole responsibility of the Federal Government while public education is a combination of state, federal and local resources. Public schools also have the ability to pass bond initiatives for school repair and construction needs. On the contrary, Tribal and BIA schools rely exclusively on the federal government to ensure their academic and construction needs are met. The extent to which the federal government has assumed this responsibility is unfortunately evident in the backlog of construction, repair and renovation costs in BIA schools which now exceeds \$800 million. The area of school construction and repair remains problematic as recent annual appropriations have historically targeted less than ten percent of the total need.

#### **2. Increasing funding for higher education scholarships at both the undergraduate and graduate level**

NIEA is encouraged by the array of programs that are designed for improving the educational achievement of Indian students in K-12 schools. However, few opportunities exist for Indian students

once they have graduated from high school. NIEA proposes funding the existing authorities for scholarship and fellowship programs at levels that will actually make a difference by strengthening the bridge between high school and college. Our funding proposals for postsecondary education are contained later in this document.

### **3. Increasing funding for adult education programs**

The lack of adequate adult education funding continues to plague any economic self-sufficiency efforts by Indian Tribes, and Indian communities in rural and urban settings. Programs such as GED programs and basic education skill courses specifically for Indian adults should be of sufficient quality and quantity to effect change throughout the entire Indian community.

### **4. Reinstating the office of the National Advisory Council on Indian Education (NACIE)**

The Indian Education Executive Order requires NACIE to play a major advisory role in the order's implementation. It is literally impossible for them to conduct this activity without a physical office within the Department of Education. The order is now seven months old and NACIE needs to be providing input into agency decisions that are now being made.

## **Elementary and Secondary Education Act Reauthorization**

The Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) of 1965 is due for reauthorization this session of Congress. NIEA has developed recommendations for consideration by the authorizing committee, the Department of Education and Indian Country. Several tribes, including the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians (ATNI), have endorsed NIEA's recommendations as they apply to the current ESEA, as amended by the Improving America's Schools Act (IASA). The issuance of Executive Order 13096 by President Clinton in August of 1998 on American Indian and Alaska Native Education and the reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act in 1999 will both play a major role in determining the future of education in general, and Indian education in particular. Our comments, as presented in this document, will be tied directly to both of these initiatives. NIEA calls on members of the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs to schedule an oversight hearing on the reauthorization of the IASA.

*NIEA's testimony will discuss Indian education and related programs administered by the Departments of Commerce, Education, Health and Human Services, Interior, and Labor, and specifically those within the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) and the Indian Health Service (IHS).*

## **1. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**

### **I. National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA).**

**A. Telecommunications and Information Infrastructure Assistance Program (TIIAP).** The FY2000 request is \$20.1 million, \$1.9 million less than 1999. TIIAP provides grants for projects that enable schools and communities to develop their telecommunications infrastructure and to offer students opportunities to develop their technology skills. Tribes and tribal colleges are among those who recognize the importance of this program in meeting their telecommunications technology needs and in producing technology-literate students. Developing a tribal workforce skilled in telecommunications

technology can help tribes reduce unemployment in their communities by giving individuals marketable job skills; supporting established businesses on, or attracting new ones to, their reservations; and strengthening tribal government administrative infrastructures in order to improve delivery of education, health, and other social welfare programs in addition to carrying out day-to-day governmental functions and responsibilities. Recent grantees include the Alamo Navajo School Board in New Mexico; Fort Berthold Community College in North Dakota; Northwest Portland Area Indian Health Board in Oregon; Oglala Sioux Tribe in South Dakota; Council of Athabascan Tribal Governments in Alaska; and the Minneapolis American Indian Center in Minnesota.

**B. Corporation for National Service.** The FY2000 request is \$848 million and is an increase of \$134 million over 1999. NIEA supports the funding that goes to Indian tribes under AmeriCorps basic grants. The budget proposal features an increase in AmeriCorps from 53,000 to 69,000 members, aiming at 100,000 members by 2002. Service-learning programs will expand to over one million students. The budget requests \$10 million for the President's Student Service Scholarship Program, which provides matching scholarships for high school students selected for outstanding community service. Here are some key budget numbers:

- \$302 million for AmeriCorps grants, up \$65 million from '99;
- \$81 million for AmeriCorps\*VISTA, up \$8 million;
- \$21 million for AmeriCorps\*NCCC, up \$3 million;
- \$50 million for Learn and Serve America, up \$7 million; and
- \$185 million for the National Senior Service Corps, up \$11 million. (RSVP - \$46 million, Foster Grandparents - \$95 million, Senior Companions - \$39 million, Demonstration Programs - \$5 million)

## 2. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

President Clinton has proposed several new programs for FY2000 in his 21<sup>st</sup> Century Schools initiative which focuses almost entirely on improving the human and physical infrastructure needs of public schools. The Administration's FY2000 proposals include: the second year of funding for Class Size Reduction which plans to add 100,000 new teachers; a new School Construction and Modernization effort; accountability measures for ending social promotion; and expanding after-school activities. Most of these, if funded, would mean additional education resources for Indian students attending public and Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) schools. The last few appropriation cycles have shown several school construction/bonding proposals which have failed to be funded for various reasons. We encourage the committee to endorse the school construction proposal from the Administration and/or increase the amount of direct funding the BIA receives for school construction/renovation and repair needs. As was the case last year, there is still a backlog in all areas of education construction within the BIA school system now estimated at over \$1 billion, according to Interior officials.

### I. Office of Indian Education (OIE).

For FY2000, the Department of Education has requested \$77 million to fund Office of Indian Education's formula grants to Local Education Agencies (LEAs), partially restore discretionary funding

for OIE and fund certain National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) surveys. This amount, in addition to LEA grants, would include a partial reinstatement of discretionary grant programs, minimal funding for the National Advisory Council on Indian Education (NACIE) and funding for the carrying out the objectives of the Executive Order on American Indian and Alaska Native Education. In 1997, budget authority for OIE transferred from Interior to Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education Appropriations.

Partial funding has been restored for OIE's discretionary program called Special Programs for Indian Children. NIEA requests the Committee's support for full reinstatement for other discretionary programs in adult education, adult literacy and Indian fellowships. The Administration's support for Indian students throughout its other programs is well established and desperately needed by the Indian community, however, few Departmental initiatives are available for Indians attending postsecondary institutions or needing adult education services. This educational gap prevents full educational access generally assured other students. NIEA's FY2000 request proposes to fill this educational inequity.

The following are NIEA's recommendations regarding OIE funding by category:

**A. Formula Grants to LEAs.** For FY2000, the Administration has requested \$62 million for OIE's formula grant program to public schools which is level funded with FY1999. Formula grants are authorized under Title IX, Subpart 1 of the Improving America's Schools Act of 1994. The Department estimates that this funding assists 461,000 Indian students attending public and Bureau of Indian Affairs schools. In FY1999 there were 415,297 public school Indian students and 45,485 BIA Indian students receiving services through this program. The number of grants awarded in 1999 included: 1,120 public schools; 84 BIA-grant/contract schools; and 70 BIA-operated schools for a total of 1,274 grantees.

**B. Special Programs for Indian Children.** The FY2000 request is \$13.3 million and is \$10 million over FY1999. NIEA fully supports the initiatives being supported by this funding. The Administration proposes to fund a new initiative called the American Indian Teacher Corp that would be funded at \$10 million. All Subpart 2 programs are authorized by Title IX of the Improving America's Schools Act. The two currently active authorizations under Subpart 2 include:

**- Improvement of Educational Opportunities for Indian Children (Section 9121)** Under this authority, discretionary grants are awarded to State Education Agencies (SEAs), local educational agencies, Indian tribes and organizations, and institutions of higher education to improve Indian student achievement through such programs as early childhood education, drop-out prevention, and school-to-work and secondary school higher education transition programs. In FY1999, \$1.4 million is available to award seven grants averaging \$200,000. The Administration requests level funding for FY2000.

**- Professional Development (Section 9122)**

Under this authority, discretionary grants are awarded to institutions of higher education, SEAs, LEAs, Indian Tribes and organizations, and BIA-funded schools in consortium with institutions of higher education. The programs goal is to increase the number qualified Indian individuals in professions serving Indian people. Individuals receiving funding under this program are required to secure employment in a field that benefits Indians. In FY1999 the department will fund approximately eight 3-year grants serving 270 students with \$1.8 million is available for this program. The Administration requests level funding for FY2000. *NIEA requests funding this category to a level of \$3 million.*

**- American Indian Teacher Corp (Section 9122)**

This new program would combine several program elements in a manner that effectively trains Indian students to work in schools with concentrations of Indian children and youth. Tribal colleges would assume a major role under this program as would postsecondary institutions that offer teacher training to develop and ensure that program reflect the needs of Indian students. TCCCs would facilitate the recruitment effort working with paraprofessional already in the field in Indian communities. The proposed funding of \$10 million would provide training for an initial cohort of 500 prospective teachers. NIEA supports this initiative.

**C. Special Programs for Indian Adults (Section 9131)** No funds are requested for this program in the FY2000 budget. This program was last funded in 1995 when it received \$5.4 million for 30 projects to carry out educational programs specifically for Indian adults. NIEA has identified adult education for American Indians and Alaska Natives as one of the four priorities urgently needed by Indian Country. *NIEA recommends \$5 million for reinstatement of the Special Programs for Indian Adults.*

**B. National Activities.** The Administration requests \$1.7 million in FY2000 to augment the Year 2000 National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) Schools and Staffing Survey (SASS) and other proposed research initiatives. The FY2000 request is \$1 million over FY1999. The data collection effort would ensure that American Indian students are included in upcoming NCES surveys that will yield additional information on American Indian learners.

**NIEA appreciates the targeted increases for Indian education, but continues to be concerned that studies on American Indian and Alaska Native students are not already a part of the Department's data gathering effort. All other ethnic populations receive considerable research results without having their respective program budgets cover the cost. A 1996 report by the United States Commission on Civil Rights titled the 'Equal Educational Opportunity Project Series, Vol. 1' found that Department of Education data on student characteristics was lacking among students from American Indian, Asian and other national backgrounds. The report stated that "accurate, reliable and complete data on these ethnic groups are vital for the efforts of the education community to assess the needs of all student sub-populations." The report recommended that documents from the Department of Education's Office of Educational Research and Improvement (OERI), and other federal agencies that contain data utilized by policy and decision makers, should include information on these populations. NIEA echoes this position and recommends that the Department of Education make a concerted effort to provide research data for all ethnic categories when conducting studies and that they do so with funds requested through their own research department.**

**E. Tribal College Executive Order.** At the release of the Department's budget, no numbers were available for funding recommendations for the Tribal Colleges Executive Order which was funded in FY1999 at \$200,000. NIEA has been informed by the Department that other agencies will have their resources combined for the Order's implementation. We are not sure which agencies will be asked to contribute.

**F. The National Advisory Council on Indian Education (NACIE).** For the past four appropriation cycles, NACIE has been funded at \$50,000. *NIEA recommends funding for NACIE in the amount of \$500,000 in order for it to re-establish an office within the Department of Education and hire full-time*



*staff.* NIEA is aware that appropriation language in the Senate Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education Appropriations Subcommittee Report from September, 1998 (S.R.105-300 ) recommends funding NACIE at \$200,000. NIEA supports this recommendation and encourages the Department to support our higher recommendation. We are concerned that the Administration's request would neglect the inclusion of one of its own commissions, particularly in its obvious concern for Indian education.

NIEA requests that funding be made available for NACIE in light of their increased advisory role in the implementation of the Indian Education Executive Order signed by President Clinton in August, 1998. Since several requirements are to be completed during the first year, it is critical that NACIE re-establish an office to facilitate its executive order mission. NACIE currently has no permanent office and must rely on OIE staff to carry out minimal functions. Discussions with the NACIE Chair indicate that communications between NACIE and OIE staff have been minimal. NIEA has made every effort to involve NACIE in several Indian education initiatives including keeping the council updated on Executive Order functions.

**G. OIE Fellowship Program.** This program is not recommended for funding in the FY2000 request. *In lieu of funding this program, NIEA recommends increasing the amount of funding available under OIE's Professional Development to \$3 million in FY2000 and \$4 million in FY2001.*

**H. OIE Administration.** Since FY1997 funding for OIE administration has been covered under the overall Department of Education's General Administration account. A budget footnote in the Education Department's 2000 budget request indicates that \$2.8 million will be available for OIE administration. NIEA encourages the Administration and the Department of Education to use a portion of these funds for the reinstatement of the NACIE office.

## **II. Other DoEd Indian Education-Related Programs.**

**NIEA fully supports the Indian set-asides for the following Department of Education programs.**

**A. Class Size Reduction Initiative.** The FY2000 request is \$1.4 billion to support an estimated 38,000 teachers in early grades under the second year of the Administration's class size reduction plan. In FY1999, \$1.2 billion was appropriated toward the seven-year plan in which 30,000 teachers are expected to be hired in the first year. The initiative's goal is to hire 100,000 new teachers over seven years. The Administration proposes to spend \$7.3 billion over seven years to reduce class sizes particularly in urban areas. The Department estimates that approximately \$3.5 million would be available in FY1999 and \$4 million in FY2000 for American Indians and Alaska Natives. NIEA supports this initiative.

**B. Reading and Literacy Grants.** The FY2000 request is \$86 million and is \$26 million over the FY1999 funded amount. NIEA fully supports the funding request for this program. NIEA is concerned that the original Administration program was called the "America Reads" program and would have contained a set-aside for Indian tribes and the BIA in the amount of \$1.9 million. This set-aside is not included in the Reading Excellence Act as it was passed in October, 1998. *NIEA strongly encourages the committee to support a technical amendment that would include Indian tribes and BIA schools as eligible for a tribal set-aside of 1.5 percent.*

**C. Goals 2000.** The FY2000 request is \$491 million and is level funded with FY1999. NIEA supports the President's request for Goals 2000. One percent of Title III funds for Territories and BIA-funded schools are used to support comprehensive, systemic education reforms to improve teaching and

learning. The FY2000 budget for Bureau of Indian Affairs schools is estimated at \$2.9 million, \$50 less than FY1999. Approximately 43,000 Indian students are to be served.

**D. Safe and Drug-Free Schools.** The FY2000 request is \$591 million and is \$25 million over FY1999. NIEA supports the FY2000 request for Safe and Drug-Free Schools. State grants under this program total \$439 million. BIA schools receive a one percent set-aside, which in 1999 was \$5.3 million. A similar amount for Indian schools is to be available in FY2000. The FY1999 request is expected to benefit approximately 40,000 Indian students.

**E. School-To-Work.** The FY2000 request is \$55 million and continues the phase-out of the School-to-Work program in 2001 with States or other vocational education dollars continuing the program. NIEA supports the President's request for School-To-Work funding. The FY2000 request is \$55 million with an equal request from the Department of Labor bringing the total program to \$105 million. FY1999 funding was \$125 million each Department. Up to one percent of program funds are set-aside for programs to help Indian youth acquire the knowledge and skills they need to make a smooth transition from school to career-oriented work and further education and training. The amount going to Indian students in FY2000, based on prior year allocations, should be \$1.2 million.

**F. Title I, Grants to LEAs.** The FY2000 request is \$6.6 billion and is \$300 million over 1999. Title I, Education for the Disadvantaged, covers four programs: Title I basic grants; Title I concentration grants; Title I targeted grants; and capital expenses for private school children. The FY 1999 request for Title I Basic Grants was \$6.3 billion, an increase of \$788,000 (less than 0.1 percent) over 1998. The BIA set-aside amount under the FY2000 appropriation would be \$51 million and serve approximately 24,500 Indian students. NIEA supports the FY2000 funding recommendation.

**G. Title I, Comprehensive School Reform.** The FY2000 request is \$150 million and is \$30 million over FY1999. This Title I initiative funds research based school-wide reform. Under this proposal, the BIA would share a 1 percent set-aside with U.S. Territories. The BIA portion would be approximately \$1 million.

**H. Title I, Even Start.** The FY2000 request is \$145 million and is \$10 million over FY1999. The Even Start program supports local projects that blend early childhood education, parenting instruction, and adult education into a unified family literacy program. The FY2000 Indian set-aside amount is estimated at \$2.2 million. NIEA fully supports this program.

**I. Eisenhower Professional Development State Grants.** The FY2000 request is \$335 million and is level funded with FY1998 and FY1999. NIEA supports this program. The Eisenhower Professional Development program emphasizes improvement of instruction in mathematics, science and other professional development areas. The FY2000 Indian set-aside amount under this program is \$1.7 million, comparable with FY1999.

**J. Impact Aid.** The FY2000 request is \$724 million and is \$100 million less than FY1999. The Administration's request would provide the following allocations: Basic - \$640 million; Special Education - \$40 million; Heavily Impacted Districts - \$0; Facilities Maintenance - \$5 million; Construction, \$7 million; and Payments for Federal property - \$0. *NIEA supports the National Association of Federally Impacted Schools (NAFIS) request of \$944 million which proposes the following allocations: Basic - \$754 million; Heavily Impacted Districts - \$77 million; Special Education - \$50 million; Payments for Federal property - \$43 million; Construction - \$14 million; and Facilities Maintenance - \$6 million.*

Impact Aid compensates school districts in areas where large numbers of children live on, or are associated with, Federal property such as Indian reservations or military bases. In 1999 the Department estimated that over 124,000 Indian children living on Indian lands would generate approximately \$300 million, well over the FY1998 amount of \$214.5 million for local school districts. In FY2000, the following estimates show how much support Indian students will generate by category for public schools: Basic - \$296 million; Special Education - \$20 million; and School Construction - \$4 million. The total FY2000 amount Indian students may generate under the Administration's request is \$320 million.

**L. Education for Homeless Children and Youth.** The FY2000 request is \$31.7 million and is \$2.9 million over 1999. NIEA supports the FY2000 request. Under this program, the BIA receives a one percent set-aside for homeless students served by the BIA. This amount is \$100,000.

**M. Bilingual Education.** The FY2000 request is \$415 million and is \$35 million over 1999. NIEA supports the Administration's request for Bilingual Education. In FY1999 American Indian and Alaska Native students received indirect funding for Bilingual Education programs in public schools in the amount of \$30.2 million. BIA schools are eligible to apply for Bilingual Education funding directly through the Department of Education. In FY1999 the amount of grants to BIA schools was \$749,000. Funding is distributed through grants to school districts to address the severe academic problems of school children who are limited English proficient. The Department estimates that 182,000 American Indian students in BIA and public schools will receive bilingual education assistance in FY1999. Under previous allocations, the Bilingual education program has included comprehensive reform funding designed to retain native languages of Indian communities. NIEA strongly encourages continuance of this effort.

**N. Special Education Grants to States.** The FY2000 request is \$4.3 billion and is \$4 million over 1999. The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) was reauthorized in 1997 as Public Law 105-17. BIA schools receive 1 percent for the education of children 5-21 years with disabilities who live on reservations. An additional .25 percent is allocated for distribution to tribes and tribal organizations to provide for the coordination of assistance and related services for children aged 3-5 with disabilities on reservation schools. The set-aside amount in the FY2000 budget request is \$52.9 million and is \$7 million over 1999. Approximately 7,000 Indian students with disabilities would be served with Special Education funding. NIEA voiced its opposition during the reauthorization of IDEA when authorizers proposed to lower the Indian set-aside amount from 1.5 to 1.25 percent. NIEA supports the increased amount.

**O. Special Education Grants for Infants and Families.** The FY2000 request is \$390 million and is \$20 million over FY1999. The Indian set-aside under the request is \$4.8 million and is \$300,000 over 1999. NIEA supports the \$4.8 million request for Grants for Infants and Families program. BIA schools receive 1.25 percent for distribution to tribes and tribal organizations for the coordination of assistance in the provision of early intervention services to children aged birth to 2 years.

**P. Vocational Rehabilitation State Grants.** The FY2000 request is \$2.3 billion and is \$35 million over FY1999. NIEA supports the President's FY2000 request. Within the Vocational Rehabilitation State Grants program is the Grants to Indians section that is recommended for funding in the FY2000 request at \$23.4 million. NIEA fully supports the Grants to Indian program.. Funds for this program are based on a .5 percent set-aside. These critical dollars provide vocational rehabilitation services to 7,000 American Indians with disabilities living on reservations.

**Q. Education Technology.** The FY2000 request is \$570 million and is \$20 million less than 1999. The program includes a Technology Literacy Challenge fund, Technology Innovation Challenge Grants, and Regional Technology in Education Consortia. American Indians are estimated to benefit with approximately \$2.3 million in Technology Literacy Challenge funds in FY1999. NIEA supports the higher FY1999 funding level for this program.

**R. Protection and Advocacy of Individual Rights.** The FY2000 request is \$10.9 million and is level with FY1999. The request would support systems in each state to protect and advocate for the legal and human rights of individuals with disabilities. These systems pursue legal and administrative remedies to ensure the protection of the rights of individuals with disabilities under federal law. The Indian set-aside in FY2000 is estimated at \$50,000 and is level with FY1999.

**S. Fund for the Improvement of Education (FIE).** The FY2000 request is \$139.5 million and is \$7.5 million less than FY1999. This program supports a variety of activities aimed at stimulating reform and improving teaching and learning. FIE also funds through the States a portion of the Title I Demonstrations of Comprehensive School Reform which provides resources and incentives to apply research findings and strategies to help turn around failing schools. The FY2000 Indian set-aside amount is \$81 million and is level with FY1998 and FY1999.

**T. Alaska Native Education Equity.** The FY2000 request is \$10 million and is level with FY1999. NIEA fully supports the FY2000 request. The FY2000 proposal will fund an Educational Planning, Curriculum Development, Teacher Training, and Recruitment program at \$5.1 million; a Home-based Education for Pre-School Children program at \$3.8 million; and a School Enrichment program at \$1.1 million. The Alaska Native Education Equity program funding request provides funding for continuation of projects that address the barriers preventing Alaska Native students from achieving to higher academic standards.

**U. Vocational and Adult Education.** The FY2000 request is \$1.1 billion and is recommended at \$9 million over 1999. Under the Basic Grants program there is an Indian and Hawaiian Natives set-aside in the amount of \$15.4 million that is recommended at level funded with FY1999. Additionally, there is a Tribally Controlled Postsecondary Vocational and Technical Institutions program recommended at \$4.1 million, level with FY1999. NIEA fully supports both of the funding recommendations for these programs.

### **3. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES**

#### **I. Administration for Children and Families:**

**A. Head Start.** The FY2000 request is \$5.3 billion and is \$607 million over 1999. NIEA supports the FY2000 budget request. The Indian Head Start program under the FY2000 budget would receive \$146.6 million which is \$25.3 million over 1999. In 1998, over 21,600 American Indian and Alaska Native children attending Head Start. If the budget request is approved, Indian communities should see an increase in Indian Head Start programs and enrollment. Currently there are 150 Indian Head Start programs serving Indian communities.

If enacted, this increase would be the largest in history, and would enable Head Start to serve an additional 42,000 children and bring the total national enrollment to 877,000 children. Under the Clinton administration, funding for Head Start has already increased by 68 percent, and enrollment has increased

by over 200,000 children, reaching 835,000 children in fiscal year 1999. The FY2000 budget request would increase funding to nearly double the level when the President took office, keeping continues the Administration's commitment to expanding the Early Head Start (EHS) program that serves low- income families with children under three years old. The FY 2000 budget request would serve 7,000 more EHS children, well on the way to the goal of doubling the program by 2002. The increase also includes approximately \$250 million in new funds to continue to improve program quality.

## II. Indian Health Service.

**A. Indian Health Professions Scholarships.** The FY2000 request for the Indian Health Service (IHS) Health Professions program is \$29.7 million and is \$77,000 over FY1999. NIEA is deeply concerned that no discernable increase in the program has been evident since FY1997. The need for health professionals in Indian Country has exceeded the available funding for ensuring adequate numbers of American Indians enter the medical profession. NIEA supports this program but requests additional funding based on actual numbers of qualified applications received annually. The Indian Health Professions is authorized by Public Law 94-437, the Indian Health Care Improvement Act (IHCIA), and includes various Health Profession programs under sections 102 through 105; 108; 110; 112; and 114. Below are brief descriptions of each section.

**Sec. 102** authorizes grants to public or nonprofit private health or educational entities, Indian tribes, or tribal organizations to identify and recruit American Indians and Alaska Natives into the health professions. In FY1998, awards were made to the Lac Courte Oreilles Tribe, the Eastern Band of Cherokee, South Central Foundation of Alaska, and Northwest Portland Area Indian Health Board. Funding in FY1998 was \$723,300.

**Sec. 103** authorizes two scholarship programs, the health Professions Preparatory Compensatory Preprofessional Scholarship and the Health Professions Preparatory Pregraduate Scholarship. Funding in FY1998 was \$3.6 million.

**Sec. 104** authorizes scholarships to American Indian and Alaska Native Students who are enrolled or accepted for matriculation in the health professions, leading to graduation and service in the IHS and other Indian Health Boards. This program requires a payback arrangement on a year-for-year basis. Funding in FY 1998 was \$8.7 million.

**Sec. 105** authorizes the IHS Extern Program. This program provides Health Profession Scholarship recipients and other health and allied health profession students the opportunity to gain practical experience during non-academic periods of the school year. An average of 240 externs participate in the program annually. Funding in FY1998 was \$1.3 million.

**Sec. 108** authorizes the repayment of loans incurred by health professional in exchange for a minimum service obligation of 2 years in the IHS, tribal programs funded under P.L.93-318 or Buy Indian contractors or Title V (P.L. 94-437) urban Indian program. In FY1998, 250 contracts were awarded to participants in the IHS Loan Repayment Program. Funding in FY1998 was \$11.9 million.

**Sec. 110** Authorizes the IHS to fund on a competitive basis Indian Tribes and tribal and Indian organizations to recruit, place, and retain health professionals to meet the staffing needs of Indian health programs. In FY1996, Sec. 110 grants were made to the Sisseton-Wahpeton Sioux Tribe; the Southeast Alaska Regional Health Board; the Five Sandoval Indian Pueblos, Inc.; the Consolidated Tribal Health at

Ukian, California; the Fort Mohave Tribe; and the Lac Courte Oreilles Tribe. New awards should be made in FY1999. Funding in FY1998 was \$580,000.

**Sec. 112** authorizes the IHS to provide funds on a competitive basis to public or private schools or nursing, tribally controlled community colleges and tribally controlled postsecondary vocational institutions, and nurse midwife programs, and nurse practitioner programs that are provided by any public or private institution. In FY1998, awards were made to University of Arizona, the Salish Kootenai College, the University of North Dakota at Grand Forks, the University of Wisconsin at Eau Claire, Oglala Lakota College, the University of Oklahoma, Sisseton-Wahpeton College and the University of South Florida. Funding in FY1998 was \$1.7 million.

**Sec. 114** authorizes IHS to provide competitive grants to colleges and universities for the purpose of maintaining and expanding Native American health careers programs known as the Indians into Medicine Program (INMED). The IHS in FY1998 funded INMED programs at the University of North Dakota at Grand Forks and the University of Minnesota at Duluth. The University of Minnesota grant will expire in FY2001 and be re-competed. The funding in FY1998 was \$220,000.

### III. Other DHHS Indian Education-Related Programs:

**A. Administration for Native Americans (ANA).** The FY2000 request is \$34.9 million and has been level funded with FY1998 and FY1999. *NIEA urges Congress to fund this program at the FY1998 level of \$38 million.* ANA provides funding for tribes and non-profit Indian organizations to develop economic development, environmental management, and language retention and preservation projects. Its mandate makes this agency uniquely situated to help Indian and Alaska Native people address their economic and social needs. In addition, ANA provides direct services to all tribes, but only has a staff of sixteen. ANA could use realistically use an additional two professional staff positions. NIEA urges the committee to recommend an increased staffing presence within ANA.

**B. Native American Languages Act Grants.** This program is funded out of the ANA appropriation funded above. NIEA anticipates approximately \$2 million going toward language preservation grants, which is \$200,000 more than in 1998. NIEA supports the Native Language Act of 1992 which authorized a funding level of \$2 million in FY1993. Funding for the act was never appropriated as ANA was directed to administer native language grants through its regular programs. We urge the Committee to consider increased funding for ANA since this is the only funding tribes have access to for economic and social development support.

**C. Child Care Development Block Grant (CCDBG).** The FY2000 request is \$1.2 billion in discretionary child care funds in FY 2001. Because the Child Care and Development Block Grant is advance appropriated, \$1.2 billion was already provided for FY 2000 in the FY 1999 appropriation. These funds, an increase of \$183 million over FY 1999, will support affordable, quality child care for low-income working parents. Of these funds, \$173 million will support activities that improve the quality of child care. Ten million dollars will be set aside for research, demonstration and evaluation activities. Recently, ACF solicited input from over 500 experts in the child care field in shaping its child care research agenda. These funds are part of an Administration initiative to help working families find safe and affordable child care. The FY 2000 budget includes \$4.1 billion in mandatory child care funding.

**D. Community Services Programs, Community Services Block Grant** The FY2000 request is \$5.1 billion and is level requested with FY1999. NIEA supports the FY 1999 request of \$5.1 billion for child



care activities. The Community Services Block Grant program provides States, territories, and Indian Tribes with a flexible source of funding to help reduce poverty, including services to address employment, education, housing assistance, energy and health services. In FY 2000, \$500 million is requested for the Block Grant. The budget does not include funds for previously supported discretionary community services programs, i.e., Community Economic Development, Community Food and Nutrition, National Youth Sports, and Rural Community Facilities. Included in this request are funds for child care entitlements (Mandatory Funds), and Discretionary Funds (the former CCDBG). Tribes receive a 2 percent set-aside of these funds.

Also included in the \$5.1 billion request are funds to implement the President's Child Care Initiative. These funds will support the following new activities: an Early Learning Fund; a Standards Enforcement Fund; a Child Care Provider Scholarship Fund; and a Research and Evaluation Fund. It is expected that Tribes will benefit from these new child care initiatives in FY1999. In FY1999 tribal grantees were awarded \$86.5 million in Child Care and Development funds. In FY1998, 243 tribal grantees were awarded over \$61 million in Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) grant funds. Through consortia arrangements, CCDF tribal grantees serve over 500 Federally recognized Indian Tribes and Alaska Native Villages.

#### 4. DEPARTMENT OF INTERIOR

##### **I. Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA):**

Within BIA's overall departmental framework are six categorical areas that contain education-related programs serving federally-recognized Indian tribes. The programs serve Indian students in K-12, postsecondary, and adult education programs either through direct funding from the BIA or indirectly through allocations to tribes. These programs include: Tribal Priority Allocations; School Operations; Tribally Controlled Community Colleges; Special Programs and Pooled Overhead; and Education Construction. The FY2000 budget request for each category includes:

BIA CATEGORY	FY 1998	FY 1999	FY 2000
Tribal Priority Allocations	53,220,000	52,675,000	51,106,000
School Operations	460,387,000	476,086,000	503,568,000
Tribally Controlled Community Colleges	29,911,000	31,311,000	38,411,000
Special Programs/Pooled Overhead	14,019,000	14,258,000	15,670,000
Education Construction	54,019,000	60,400,000	108,377,000
Institute of American Indian Arts	4,250,000	4,250,000	4,250,000
<b>BIA EDUCATION TOTALS</b>	<b>\$616,166,000</b>	<b>\$638,980,000</b>	<b>\$721,382,000</b>

Below are detailed descriptions of each education program by category.

##### **A. Tribal Priority Allocations (TPA) - \$51,106,000**

**1. Scholarships.** The FY2000 request is \$28.6 million and is \$919,000 less than FY1999. Since FY1994, allocations for tribal college scholarships have fallen from \$31 million to less than \$29 million in the 2000 request. *NIEA recommends \$39 million for this scholarship program.* NIEA has identified the lack of funding for Indian scholarships as one of the biggest need areas in Indian education. One of

NIEA's major priorities is to increase funding for all postsecondary education programs for American Indians and Alaska Natives. The needs of Indian students pursuing postsecondary education are often neglected, especially when critically-needed programs are cut or eliminated such as the Department of Education's Office of Indian Education Fellowship Program in 1996. The 1990 Census identified the majority of the Indian population as being under the age of 25 compared with 17 percent nationally. The BIA estimates that 9,800 students will be awarded scholarships through this program with an average award of \$3,000. The requested reduction means 306 Indian students will be denied scholarships.

The Department of Education estimates that there are 130,000 American Indian and Alaska Native students attending postsecondary institutions nationally. NIEA is concerned that a major discrepancy exists in the funding that Indian students receive in their efforts to obtain a higher education degree. We encourage the committee and the Administration to increase funding for Indian higher education scholarships.

**2. Adult Education.** The FY2000 request is \$2.6 million and is a reduction of \$28,000 from FY1999. *NIEA strongly recommends the program be funded at \$4 million in FY2000.* Next to Indian scholarships, adult education programs continue to be one of the most critically-needed areas in Indian communities. Adult education programs have a twofold purpose in allowing Indians adults who did not finish high school to obtain their General Educational Development (GED) degree and/or increase their life-coping skills. The BIA estimates that approximately 20,000 Indian adults participate in the program.

The elimination in 1996 of the Adult Education Program in the Department of Education's Office of Indian Education (OIE), put a strain on the limited resources of the BIA and did little to focus resources on the majority of Indians living off-reservation. Older Indian adults are less apt to not attend state-operated programs and tend to be more successful in Indian-operated programs.

**3. Johnson-O'Malley (JOM) Program.** The FY2000 request is \$17.5 million and is a reduction of \$611,000 over 1999. *NIEA recommends that the JOM program be funded at \$24 million.* Since FY1995, the funding for JOM has decreased by nearly \$7 million from \$24.3 million in to less than \$18 million in the 2000 request. The JOM program provides supplemental educational services for 272,000 American Indian students in 23 states.

In 1996, the JOM program was transferred to Tribal Priority Allocation (TPA). Prior to 1996, the program had been earmarked for zero-funding on several occasions. While its placement under TPA has allowed for a measure of stability, it has also placed it in a situation where a tribe that exercises its consolidation options under P.L. 102-477 legislation may also utilize JOM funding. The National Johnson O'Malley Association has been a vocal opponent of the placement of JOM under TPA and in October, 1998 the NIEA membership passed Resolution No. NIEA-98-00 opposing such a placement.

The JOM program has at one time or another been targeted as being duplicative of the Department of Education's Title IX, Office of Indian Education (OIE) program. The Johnson O'Malley Act of 1934 was intended to facilitate the entrance of Indian children into public schools. Unlike JOM, OIE programs specifically concentrate resources on direct educational enrichment programs. Title IX is the only federal funding that provides for activities and services that meet the special educational and culturally related academic needs of American Native students in elementary and secondary schools. In addition, only federally-recognized Indian students may participate in JOM programs. The OIE program allows members of federally-recognized, non-federally-recognized, and state-recognized tribes, and groups petitioning for federal recognition to participate in the program.



## **B. Other Programs, School Operations - \$503,568,000**

The FY2000 budget request for School Operations is \$503.5 million and is \$27.4 million over 1999. The \$503.5 million investment in American Indian youth attending BIA schools provides for a variety of basic educational services from early childhood to student transportation to administrative costs associated with educating primarily reservation-based schools. The BIA educates approximately 10 percent of the American Indian and Alaska Native K-12 population in the U.S. Below are the various education components within the School Operations category.

**1. Indian School Equalization Program (ISEP) Formula.** The President's FY2000 request is \$319.9 million compared with the FY99 actual of \$306.2 million for this program. The increase of \$13.7 million provides formula-based funding for 185 federally-operated and contracted schools serving 51,378 students. There are several types of schools funded with ISEP funds including BIA-operated, grant, and contract elementary and secondary schools. The fiscal year 2000 request reflects a 10 percent reduction in the student count from the prior year. While there was a decrease in student enrollment in school year 1998-1999, the BIA expects an increase of 2.5 percent for school year 1999-2000. The Weighted Student Unit (WSU) amount for school year 1998-1999 is \$3,199. The estimate for 1999 is \$3,238 and \$3,285 in 2000. NIEA continues to support a funding level of \$3,500 per WSU - a number we have proposed since FY1993. The proposed \$3,285 per WSU is still far below the average per student expenditure by public elementary and secondary schools, an amount reported by the Department of Education's National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) to be \$7,317 per student in school year 1996-97. In addition, the enrollment for BIA schools have consistently grown from 39,911 in 1987 to 51,378 in 1999. *NIEA recommends \$329 million for ISEP and \$708,000 for ISEP Program Adjustments.*

**2. Family and Child Education (FACE) Program.** The FY2000 request is \$5.5 million and is \$83,000 more than 1999. The FACE program was first funded in 1992 and was designed to begin educating children at an earlier age through parental involvement at home and to coordinate FACE components. We request that the FACE program be funded at the FY1994 level of \$7.5 million. Currently there are 22 FACE sites, however the BIA could use a FACE program at each of its elementary schools if the program were sufficiently funded.

In FY1999, the Bureau will fund 22 sites to address the literacy needs of the family and support parental participation in the education of their children. The program will serve about 1,800 children and 1,800 adults from a total of 1,700 families in two settings. The program also helps an additional 3,200 children in grades K-3 by providing teacher training in various teaching methods. The program also assists approximately 50 adults per year acquire their GED.

**3. Student Transportation.** The FY2000 request is \$38.8 million and is an increase of \$4 million over 1999. In SY1998-99 the BIA-funded transportation cost is \$2.10 per mile with over 14 million miles estimated to be driven. The latest national cost per mile was not available, however, in 1994, the national average was \$2.92 per mile for public schools. Therefore, the BIA-funded schools, which are located primarily in rural, isolated areas, are at least \$.82 below the national per mile average. For students in boarding schools, transportation funding is provided at the beginning and end of the school year and for one round trip home at mid-year. For students in day schools, daily transportation must be provided. *NIEA recommends \$41 million for student transportation.*

**4. Institutional Disabled.** The FY2000 request is \$3.7 million and is \$7,000 less than 1999. Appropriations in FY1999 provided for services to approximately 166 Indian children ages 5-21 in 47 different institutions. These students require 24-hour institutionalized care. *NIEA recommends \$4*

*million.*

**5. Facilities Operations and Maintenance.** The FY2000 request is \$79.1 million and is \$3.8 million less than 1999. The request will provide for \$51.8 million for operations and \$27.3 million for maintenance costs for all Bureau-funded schools. In FY1999, the Bureau will provide essential services for educational facilities consisting of 2,337 buildings containing approximately 17.6 million square feet. *NIEA recommends \$90 million.*

**6. Administrative Cost Grants.** The FY2000 request is \$47.7 million and is \$5.5 million over 1999. For school year 1999-2000, the BIA will have 129 contract/grant schools and 56 Bureau-operated schools. Administrative Cost Grants enable Tribes and Tribal organizations to operate contract or grant schools without reducing direct program services to Indian students. The Navajo Nation has approved the conversion of 10 additional schools during school year 2000-2001, therefore more funds are needed to cover these conversion costs. *NIEA recommends \$50 million.*

**7. Area Agency Technical Support.** The FY2000 request is \$7.4 million and is \$240,000 over 1999. This funding provides technical support and program supervision through 24 education line officers for 185 Bureau-funded elementary and secondary programs, and the scholarship and adult education programs. *NIEA recommends \$8 million.*

**8. Tribal Departments of Education (TED).** *Although no funding is provided in the President's budget, NIEA recommends at least \$3 million for tribal departments of education.* We believe that sufficient funding should be provided to assist tribes in planning and developing their own centralized tribal administrative entities to accomplish their goals in accordance with school reform and accreditation needs. This would be appropriate given the recent trend to convert more schools from BIA to Tribal control. Funding for tribal education departments has been endorsed by NIEA's membership as well as by the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI).

**9. Substance Abuse/Alcohol Abuse.** This program has not been funded since 1994, however, the Administration has announced in the FY2000 budget request an earmark of \$400,000 to deal with alcohol and substance abuse in Indian communities. NIEA is pleased that the Administration has reinstated this valuable program that will deal with the severe substance abuse issues facing our Indian youth.

### **C. Tribally Controlled Community Colleges - \$38,411,000**

**1. Tribal Colleges/Post Secondary Schools.** The FY2000 request is \$37.3 million and is \$7.1 million over the 1999 amount. Included in the request is \$114,000 for technical assistance and \$977,000 for Endowment Grants. The FY2000 request reflects the FY1999 funding recommendation of the American Indian Higher Education Consortium (AIHEC). *NIEA also supports an additional \$2 million for economic development, \$1.8 million for emergency facility repair and renovations and \$214,000 for Technical Assistance grants in the FY2000 budget for a total request of \$41.3 million.*

In addition, tribal community colleges have never received facilities construction or renovation/repair money from the BIA. The national average for Full-Time Equivalent (FTE) funding at mainstream community colleges is approximately \$6,200 per year. The level of FM funding for some special population colleges is approximately three times that which is provided to the tribal colleges.

#### **D. Special Programs and Pooled Overhead - \$15,670,000**

**1. Postsecondary School.** The FY2000 request is \$14.3 million and is \$1.4 million over 1999. NIEA recommends \$16 million for the postsecondary schools program. The two postsecondary schools funded under this section include Haskell Indian Nations University and the Southwestern Indian Polytechnic Institute (SIPI). Haskell will receive \$8.6 million and SIPI will receive \$5.7 million if the request is approved. NIEA recommends \$10 million for Haskell and \$6.5 million for SIPI since both schools have experienced large increases in enrollments. Both schools provide a variety of educational opportunities for Indian and Alaska Native students at the community college and university level to prepare them to enter four-year colleges and universities or to find employment.

In the fall of 1998 Haskell enrolled 898 students in the fall and 878 in the spring of 1999 for a yearly enrollment of 1,776. During the same period SIPI enrolled 643 Indian students in the fall, and 987 in the spring for a yearly enrollment of 1,630. With scholarship sources for Indian students rare and mostly insufficient, NIEA recommends increased funding at both institutions to strengthen academic accreditation and to provide for projected enrollment increases in SY2000. From 1997 to 1998, enrollment at both schools increased by 350. The FY2000 projection shows a major increase of nearly 500 Indian students.

**2. Special Higher Education Scholarships.** The FY2000 request is \$1.3 million, level with 1999. This amount has remained level since 1996 and is totally unacceptable to NIEA. NIEA recommends \$5 million. Since FY1995 funding for BIA graduate scholarships have been cut in half. The reduction occurred at the same time the Department of Education, Office of Indian Education lost funding for its \$2.6 million fellowship program for Indian students. The BIA program is the primary funding source for American and Alaska Native graduate students and is totally inadequate to help these individuals meet the costs of an advanced degree. The program, which is administered by the American Indian Graduate Center (AIGC) of Albuquerque, New Mexico, has been underfunded for at least the last 5 years. For school year 1997-98, the actual unmet need was \$5.7 million. During the 1996-97 school year, the program funded an estimated 378 students with an average award of \$3,955. Because of reduced funding, scholarship awards are being drastically reduced while the demand for these limited scholarship funds increase. This program funds students in 27 states with 128 tribes represented. No other federal graduate level scholarship program, specifically for American Indian students, currently exists.

#### **E. Education Construction- \$108,377,000**

**1. Replacement School Construction.** The FY2000 request is \$69.9 million and is \$52.4 million over 1999. As part of the FY2000 request is \$30 million as recommended by the President's School Bonding proposal. NIEA supports the completion of all construction for all schools on the priority ranking list. The FY2000 funds are designated for the Seba Dalkai School in Arizona and the Fond du Lac School in Wisconsin. The priority ranking list contains 16 schools. To date, seven schools have been completed and are now occupied. Ten of the sixteen schools have been funded through the construction phase. The Bureau estimates that approximately \$111 million would be needed to complete the remaining six schools on the replacement school construction list.

**New School Construction Priority List** NIEA has become aware of a situation involving Shiprock Alternative School which is apparently not on the list to be funded in FY2000, even though it should be next in the priority ranking list. The priority ranking list determines the order that new schools are to be

built and should provide the baseline for annual appropriation requests. Shiprock was assigned position number 12 out of 16 on the priority list. The schools designated to be funded in FY2000 are Seba Dalkai (# 9 on the list) and Fond du Lac Ojibway School (#13 on the list). If this is indeed the case, we request that additional funds be made available for Shiprock Alternative. Schools assigned #10 (Sac and Fox Settlement School in Iowa) and #11 (Pyramid Lake High School in Nevada) are scheduled to begin construction in 1999. Bypassing a school on the priority list for budgetary reasons sets a negative precedent as the BIA works to establish new guidelines for a future priority list. The new guidelines are due out this fiscal year.

Below are the 16 schools that have been on the replacement school construction priority list as approved by Congress in FY1993. Schools in italics are still on the list awaiting construction funding.

<b>REPLACEMENT SCHOOL PROJECT</b>	<b>STATUS</b>
<b>1. Pinon Community School Dorms</b>	<b>Complete</b>
<b>2. Eastern Cheyenne Rive Consolidated School</b>	<b>Complete</b>
<b>3. Rock Point Community Schools</b>	<b>Complete</b>
<b>4. Many Farms High School</b>	<b>Construction started 1998</b>
<b>5. Tucker Day School</b>	<b>Complete</b>
<b>6. Shoshone-Bannock School</b>	<b>Complete</b>
<b>7. Standing Pine Day School</b>	<b>Complete</b>
<b>8. Chief Leschi School</b>	<b>Complete</b>
<i>9. Seba Dalkai School</i>	<i>Construction funds requested in 2000</i>
<b>10. Sac &amp; Fox Settlement School</b>	<b>Construction to start in 1999</b>
<b>11. Pyramid Lake High School</b>	<b>Construction to start in 1999</b>
<i>12. Shirock Alternative School Planning complete,</i>	<i>Design started</i>
<i>13. Tuba City Boarding School Design funded</i>	<i>Not Funded for Construction</i>
<i>14. Fond Du Lac Ojibway School</i>	<i>Construction funds requested in 2000</i>
<i>15. Second Mesa Day School Planning complete</i>	<i>Design started</i>
<u><i>16. Zia Day School Design</i></u>	<u><i>Scheduled to be completed in 2000</i></u>

**2. Education Facilities Improvement and Repair (FI&R).** The FY2000 request for Education Facilities Improvement and Repair is \$36 million and is \$4 million less than 1999. The FI&R program is focused towards eliminating critical health and safety hazards in Bureau education facilities. The estimated backlog of education repair needs, excluding quarters as of January, 1999, totals approximately \$743 million. NIEA urges the Committee to consider additional, or supplemental funding, in order to clear up this situation. *NIEA recommends \$46.2 million.*

**3. Indian School Construction Bonding.** The FY2000 request is \$30 million and is included under the Bureau's Replacement School and is being proposed in the President's School Construction Modernization Initiative. The bonding initiative is designed to provide needy districts and Tribes with the authority to issue bonds to lenders who could claim a tax credit for the life of a bond in lieu of interest. It is estimated that the bonding authority could generate an estimated \$75 million in construction authority. Past bonding initiatives have failed for various reasons and direct funding may be a better alternative for tribes and bureau schools. The requested \$30 million increase would be invested and allocated to Tribes with schools on the top of the Bureau's repair and replacement priority list. NIEA credits the Administration in its effort to provide a creative method for financing needed school repairs. *We feel that the proposal has some merit; however, an outright appropriation to fund the \$740 million backlog is preferred.*

**F. Institute of American Indian Arts (IAIA).** The FY2000 request is \$4.25 million and is level funded with FY1998 and FY1999. NIEA supports the FY2000 request for IAIA plus an additional \$2 million for construction needs. This institution has been in existence for 35 years and is the only facility solely dedicated to the arts for American Indians and Alaska Natives. The request would support the core operations of the institute by providing funding for instruction, student support services, administration costs, and for operations of the IAIA museum. *NIEA requests \$6.25 million for IAIA.*

IAIA has been compared to other institutions in terms of cost per students. IAIA does not have its own facilities and leases space from a separate college and from a tribally-contracted school. The cost for housing the IAIA on the campus represents 18 percent of the total institutional budget. IAIA also operates a museum which house the National Collection of Contemporary American Indian and Alaska Native Art. This collection consists of 7,000 pieces.

**G. Institute of American Indian Arts Construction.** There are no funds requested in the FY2000 budget for construction costs at IAIA. NIEA asks the committee to support an additional \$2 million for IAIA's construction needs for a new campus. In the FY1999 appropriations bill, the IAIA was required to raise \$500,000 in order to bring the appropriation of \$3.75 million to \$4.25 million. By mid-February 1999, IAIA had raised 80 percent (\$395,000) of the \$500,000 as requested by congress. IAIA has made exceptional progress in obtaining private sector support and in 1990, a private donor in Sante Fe, New Mexico donated 140 acres of land that will be used for a future campus. NIEA fully supports the efforts of IAIA since they represent a vital link between education and the cultural traditions of American Indian and Alaska Native people. We urge the committee to consider increased funding for IAIA.

## 5. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

### **I 1. DOL Indian Education-Related Programs.**

**A. Job Training Partnership Act.** The FY2000 request is \$53.8 million and is level funded with 1999. NIEA requests the Congress to support funding of this important program at its FY1995 enacted level of \$65 million. This funding covers essentially the same program as last year except after the completion of reauthorization activities in 1999, the program is now called the Workforce Investment Act (WIA) (formerly Section 401, Native American Program of the Job Training Partnership Act (JTPA)). The funding would support the program in JTPA Program Year 1999, starting July 1<sup>st</sup> of next year. This program is designed to improve the economic well-being of Native Americans through the provisions of training, work experience, and other employment-related services and opportunities that are intended to aid the participants to secure permanent, unsubsidized jobs. This program is critical to both reservation and urban grantees who are largely unskilled, poorly educated, and living in poverty.

**B. Summer Youth Employment.** NIEA supports the Administration's FY2000 request of \$871 million for the Summer Youth Employment Program. The Indian set-aside is approximately \$15 million and is \$800,000 less than FY1999. *NIEA requests an additional \$2 million be included in the set-aside amount for Indians bringing the total request to \$15.8 million.* On most Indian reservations this program provides the only means of employing young Indian men and women who are vulnerable to a myriad of economic and social ills such as drug and alcohol abuse, teen pregnancy and fatherhood, and unemployment due to little or no job skills, as well as being at a higher risk of dropping out of school, at attempting suicide, due to the lack of positive, constructive activities and facilities to improve their self-esteem and give them hope for their future.

**C. Welfare-to-Work.** The FY2000 request is level funded at \$1 billion. The legislative proposal for this initiative is still in development, but would likely increase the tribal set-aside from one percent to three percent. If enacted, the authorization would provide tribes \$30 million in FY2000 instead of the \$15 million they have received for each of the last two years. NIEA fully supports this proposal.

**D. Other Department of Labor Programs.** NIEA is aware of other Department of Labor programs which have the potential of reaching Indian tribes. These programs include: Adult Training; Dislocated Workers; Youth Training; Job Corps; School-to-Work; Opportunity Areas for Out-of-School Youth; and National Programs. Their combined total for FY1999 is \$5.3 billion. NIEA recommends that these programs make a concerted effort to target the American Indian population, even if their authorizing legislation does not require them to do so.

**In conclusion, we want to thank the Committee for continuing to give its attention to the issues and concerns we have raised in our testimony. In light of the federal government's trust responsibility for the education of all American Indians and Alaska Natives, and on behalf of our members, we urge the Committee's support for maintaining or increasing the funding for the Indian education and related programs discussed herein at the levels we have recommended.**

**Please contact our staff if you have any questions with any item in this testimony.** 🌲